

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /075 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5311

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AR

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN BUENOS AIRES

1. DURING A 32 HOUR PERIOD FROM APRIL 13-14, A RESURGENCE OF
TERRORIST ACTIVITY OCCURRED, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS:

1. ON APRIL 13, AT 0730 HOURS, A TWO-MAN BODYGUARD TEAM
FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER OF GOODYEAR CO. WAS MURDERED
BY TERRORISTS AS THEY WAITED TO ESCORT THE EXECUTIVE TO WORK.
THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE EXECUTIVE'S HOME IN
SANTOS LUGARES, A BUENOS AIRES SUBURB. THE MONTONEROS
CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE ACTION.

B. ON APRIL 14, AT 0630 HOURS, THE MARKETING MANAGER FOR
CHRYSLER CORP. WAS MACHINE-GUNNED TO DEATH IN HIS SUBURBAN
MORON HOME. THE ATTACKERS FIRED THROUGH A WINDOW AS HE
WENT TO ANSWER THE DOOR BELL.

C. AT 0700 HOURS ON THE SAME DATE, TWO ARGENTINE NAVY
CAPTAINS WERE KILLED BY ATTACKERS IN SUBURBAN MARTINEZ AS
THEY WERE CLIMBING INTO THEIR CAR TO GO TO WORK. FAL
RIFLES AND ITHAKA SHOTGUNS WERE USED, PLUS A GRENADE
WHICH DID NOT EXPLODE.

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D. AT 0915 HOURS, TERRORISTS ATTACKED A PROVINCIAL POLICE PATROL IN ADROGUE, PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, KILLING THREE POLICE OFFICERS AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDING A FOURTH. THE ASSAILANTS DROVE TWO PICK-UPS AND EMPLOYED SHOT-GUNS AND MACHINE GUNS.

E. AT 1430 HOURS, 7 PERSONS, INCLUDING ONE WOMAN, USING 2 CARS AND 2 MOTORCYCLES, ATTACKED AND WOUNDED 3 SOLDIERS IN VICENTE LOPEZ, A BUENOS AIRES SUBURB.

2. THESE ATTACKS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED IN SIMILAR FASHION. USUALLY FOUR OR MORE PEOPLE, INCLUDING WOMEN, HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. BOTH PICK-UP TRUCKS AND CARS HAVE BEEN USED, AND BOTH SHOTGUNS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED.

3. ON APRIL 14, 1976, THE SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE CONVENED. THE CONSENSUS OF THE SWC WAS THAT RECENT EVENTS SHOWED A RETURN OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES TO PRE-COUP LEVELS. ALSO, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT POSSIBLY TERRORISTS WERE NOW HITTING TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY AND THEIR BODYGUARDS INSTEAD OF HIGH-RANKING DIPLOMATS AND BUSINESSMEN. THE SWC RECOMMENDED THAT PEOPLE WITH GUARDS ON THEIR HOUSES INSTRUCT THE GUARDS TO MOVE BACK FROM HIGHLY VISIBLE LOCATIONS AND TO CHANGE THEIR POSITIONS FREQUENTLY SO THAT THEY WOULD BE LESS VULNERABLE TO A TERRORIST ATTACK. ALSO AT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION, THE AUTOMOBILE ESCORT SYSTEM (USED DURING THE HIGH THREAT PERIOD IN JANUARY, 1976) WAS REINSTITUTED BEGINNING APRIL 15.

RSO COMMENT: THE LATEST RASH OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS APPEAR TO BE A HIT-AND-RUN STYLE WITH THE PURPOSE BEING ASSASSINATION. THE TARGETS (BODYGUARDS, POLICE, AND MILITARY) ARE THOSE WHICH REQUIRE PLANNING AND CONFIDENCE FOR SUCCESS.

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